

SECRET

18 OCT 18 23 34 18 October 1966

[REDACTED] 25X1

PRIORITY SAIGON

CITE HEADQUARTERS [REDACTED] 25X1

EYES ONLY FOR [REDACTED] 25X1

REF: [REDACTED] 25X1

1. FOR YOUR PRIVATE BACKGROUND ONLY, FOLLOWING IS CURRENT WASHINGTON STATE OF PLAY ON PACIFICATION REORGANIZATION: MCNAMARA RETURNED WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT ALL U.S. ^{CIVILIAN} ACTIVITIES WHICH PART OF PACIFICATION PROGRAM AND ALL PERSONS ENGAGED THEREIN BE PLACED UNDER CIVILIAN RELIEVED OF ALL OTHER DUTIES, THUS PROVIDING CLEAR ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY AND UNIFIED COMMAND. SECDEF ALSO RECOMMENDED THERE BE "CAREFULLY DELINEATED DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY" BETWEEN THIS CIVILIAN AND AN ELEMENT OF COMUSMACV UNDER A SENIOR OFFICER WHO WOULD GIVE PROBLEM OF HAMLET SECURITY FIRST CLAIM ON HIS ATTENTION AND RESOURCES. SECDEF FELT THIS PREFERABLE SOLUTION FROM POLITICAL AND IMAGE VIEWPOINT, BUT IF AFTER FAIR TRIAL IT DID NOT WORK, ONLY ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO PLACE ENTIRE PACIFICATION PROGRAM UNDER COMUSMACV.

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2. THOUGH DETAILS FAR FROM IRONED OUT, BASIC DECISION MADE ON 15 OCTOBER THAT PACIFICATION DIRECTOR WOULD BE CIVILIAN (PORTER) WHO WOULD HAVE PERSONAL STAFF AND A MILITARY DEPUTY. LATTER IS STATE'S SUGGESTION WHICH SEEMS BOUGHT FOR NOW. STATE URGING THAT THIS DEPUTY BE VERY SENIOR OFFICER, PREFERABLY THREE STAR. HE WOULD BE UNDER PORTER, NOT COMUSMACV, ^{MACV}THOUGH LATTER MIGHT CREATE APPROPRIATE COUNTERPART FOR HIM TO DEAL WITH.

3. JUST WHERE OUR RD CADRE PROGRAM WOULD FIT IN NEW SCHEME NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. WE WOULD OBVIOUSLY PREFER IT BE UNDER THE CIVILIAN PACIFICATION DIRECTOR. IDEA APPARENTLY CIRCULATING WHICH WOULD PUT IT, ALONG WITH PRCS, UNDER MACV, WHICH WOULD RETAIN CONTROL OF RF AND PF ADVISORS. THIS WE SHALL OBVIOUSLY RESIST.

4. STATE'S CURRENT LINE IS TO AVOID FIXING DETAILS UNTIL MILITARY DEPUTY NAMED AND FIELD COMMENTS HEARD. IT BELIEVES THAT IF GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY (SUBORDINATE TO PORTER), THIS OFFICER WILL HAVE OWN VIEWS ON RESOURCES HE AND HIS CIVILIAN CHIEF NEED TO DO THEIR JOB, AND WILL BE WELL PLACED TO ARGUE THEIR CASE.

5. ON LINE-UP, [REDACTED] SESSION WITH

25X1
25X1 UNDER SECRETARY KATZENBACH AND [REDACTED] 18 OCTOBER CONVERSATION WITH UNGER DEMONSTRATES AFRESH THAT STATE THINKING VERY MUCH IN ACCORD WITH OURS.

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THUS FOR TIME BEING

6. [^] ~~THOUGH~~ DECISION IN FAVOR MILITARY NOT FORGONE CONCLUSION.
[^] ~~WE NOT OUT OF WOODS:~~ ^{HOWEVER} 15 OCTOBER DECISION FOR CIVILIAN DID HAVE
RIDER THAT THIS STRUCTURE WOULD HAVE TO PRODUCE RESULTS IN NEAR
FUTURE, THOUGH IT NOT CLEAR JUST WHAT THIS MEANS IN TERMS SPECIFIC
TIME INTERVAL.

7. WOULD APPRECIATE SUMMARY OF WAY PACIFICATION ISSUE
DISCUSSED SAIGON DURING MCNAMARA VISIT. IN COMMUNICATING, THIS
MODE (RESTRICTED HANDLING) IS BETTER PRIVACY CHANNEL THAN SC.
COMMO PREFERS IT AND THERE IS NO RISK EYES ONLY MESSAGES INADVERTANT
LY GETTING STANDARD COMINT DISTRIBUTION.

END OF MESSAGE

Richard Helms
Releasing Officer

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